



MISSOURI ACCELERATED SCHOOLS



WHEN DID ACCELERATED SCHOOLS BEGIN IN MISSOURI?

In 1987 the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education initiated the Missouri Accelerated Schools Project, a network consisting of six elementary schools. The project is based on the ideas of Henry Levin, professor at Teachers College, Columbia University (formerly professor at Stanford University).

HOW MANY ACCELERATED SCHOOLS ARE THERE IN MISSOURI?

The Accelerated Schools network has grown to include over 200 elementary, middle/junior high and high schools in all areas of the state — urban, suburban, small town and rural. These schools are served by regional centers at five universities — University of Missouri-Columbia, University of Missouri-Kansas City, University of Missouri-St. Louis, Southwest Missouri State University at Springfield, and Southeast Missouri State University at Cape Girardeau.

WHAT IS AN ACCELERATED SCHOOL?

An Accelerated School is one that commits itself to both a philosophy and a process to improve student achievement and increase parent and community involvement. In carrying out the philosophy and process, members of the Accelerated Schools community — the principal, teachers, other staff, parents, students, district office personnel and local community members — work together to make the school the best that it can be so that all children will have the opportunity to be successful, productive members of society.



By making changes in curriculum, instruction and school organization, the Accelerated Schools community transforms the school into a place where all students, especially those at risk of failing in the current system, excel high levels regardless of their background.

WHAT IS THE PHILOSOPHY OF ACCELERATION?

Accelerated Schools are founded on three principles:

1. Unity of purpose
2. Empowerment with responsibility
3. Building on strengths

Fundamental to the philosophy is the belief that all children have gifts and talents. An Accelerated School, therefore, provides **powerful learning** experiences for all children that build on their talents through enrichment, hands-on and active learning, problem solving, and independent research.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS OF ACCELERATION?

Accelerated Schools encourage their entire school communities to think critically and creatively about improving their schools.

School communities engage in a five-step process to bring about change:

1. Forge a vision
2. Take stock
3. Establish priorities
4. Create governance structures
5. Embed an inquiry (problem-solving) process



IS TRAINING OFFERED FOR NEW ACCELERATED SCHOOLS?

YES! The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education offers comprehensive, ongoing training, technical assistance and support through its regional Accelerated Schools centers.

Teams from new schools attend a summer academy and then monthly meetings throughout the year. Team members serve as coaches in their own schools.

Teams from continuing schools meet three or four times per year.

On-site assistance and mentor visits are provided to each school.

Every Accelerated School in Missouri may also attend a two-day Powerful Learning Conference.

Additional training and professional development opportunities are offered throughout the year by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and its regional centers.



HOW CAN MY SCHOOL BECOME ACCELERATED?

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education provides start-up grants and disseminates information about the Missouri Accelerated Schools Project. To learn more, contact the project director or one of the regional Accelerated Schools Centers listed on the back page.

The Accelerated Schools PHILOSOPHY & PROCESS

PHILOSOPHY

- The schools we want to create for all children should be the same schools we want for our *own* children.
- **Powerful learning** experiences are provided for all children through the integration of curriculum, instruction and organization.
- Accelerated School communities share beliefs and attitudes.

THREE PRINCIPLES:

**Unity
of
Purpose**

**Empowerment
Coupled with
Responsibility**

**Building
on
Strengths**

SYSTEMATIC CHANGE PROCESS

Develop Vision

- Begin to build unity of purpose by bringing the school community together to work on a schoolwide effort.
- Get everyone – staff, students, parents and other community members – involved in creating the vision (develop a sense of the “there”).
- Imagine what kind of school you would want for your own child.
- Identify three to five goal areas.
- Celebrate your shared vision!

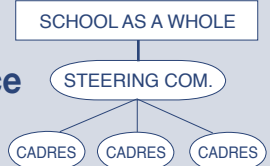
Take Stock

- Continue to build unity of purpose by empowering participants to find strengths and challenges.
- Gather baseline data on the goal areas from which change will be measured (develop a sense of the “here”).
- Use the information to provide a picture to guide future deliberations.

Set Priorities

- Start to get from “here” to “there.”
- Realize that you can’t work on everything at once.
- Prioritize differences between taking stock and vision.
- Determine the areas that will be the focus of your cadres.

**Create
Governance
Structures**



- Include members of the entire school community on all cadres through a self-selection process.
- Build a steering committee of cadre representatives, administrators, parents, students and community members.
- Build ownership and shared responsibility.
- Empower the school as a whole to act as the decision-making body.

**Embed the
Inquiry
Process**



- Focus on the challenge area.
- Brainstorm solutions.
- Build on the strengths and ideas of people in the school community.
- Synthesize solutions and develop an action plan.
- Pilot test/implement the plan.
- Evaluate and reassess.

Missouri Accelerated Schools Project



Carolyn Deffenbaugh, Director
School Improvement Initiatives
Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education
P.O. Box 480
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480
Phone 573-751-2332 Fax 573-522-6526
E-mail: carolyn.deffenbaugh@dese.mo.gov

Missouri Accelerated Schools Centers

◆ **University of Missouri-Columbia**
Dr. Terri Martin, Coordinator
205 London Hall
Columbia, MO 65211
Phone 573-884-0096 Fax 573-884-5622
E-mail: martinte@missouri.edu

◆ **University of Missouri-St. Louis**
Carolyn Neal, Coordinator
St. Louis Regional Education Park
8225 Florissant Road
St. Louis, MO 63121-4499
Phone 314-516-6867 Fax 314-516-6844
E-mail: cneal@umsl.edu

◆ **University of Missouri-Kansas City**
Lewis Gowin, Coordinator
5324 Harrison
Kansas City, MO 64110-2499
Phone 816-235-2442 Fax 816-235-5624
E-mail: gowinl@umkc.edu

◆ **Southwest Missouri State University**
Kathie Lewis, Coordinator
430 South Avenue, Floor #4
Springfield, MO 65806
Phone 417-829-5065 Fax 417-829-5072
E-mail: kal912t@smsu.edu

◆ **Southeast Missouri State University**
Peggy Hitt, Coordinator
One University Plaza, MS 0120
926 Broadway
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701-4799
Phone 573-986-6130 Fax 573-651-2251
E-mail: peggy.hitt@dese.mo.gov

Missouri Accelerated Schools on the Internet

<http://dese.mo.gov/divteachqual/sii>



Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
P.O. Box 480, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0480

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. Inquiries related to Department programs may be directed to the Title IX Coordinator, Jefferson State Office Building, 5th Floor, 205 Jefferson Street, P.O. Box 480, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480; telephone number 573-751-4581.